

R E V I E W.

Tuesday, September 16. 1712.

It is impossible to go on in a Series of publick Observations, without being oblig'd to some Digressions, as Extraordinary Accidents intervene : I am upon the *State of Parties*, and pursue in its Course, to speak to the State of the Succession, together with the Rights of the Queen and of the Pretender : But who can forbear, in the mean time, saying a Word or two to a new piece of Pageantry, relating to that Person whom we call the Pretender, and to his giving himself a New Title, *that of the Duke of Gloucester*.

Before I speak of the Ridiculous part on his side, it will be true, that it is his, let me take notice to you, that, *I think*, nothing is so Ridiculous on our Side, as to see our People make a Thing of Weight of it, and take Umbrage in earnest at that in it, which is the most absurd incongruous piece of Grimace, that ever any Man put upon himself, and which had he done to himself, which I own I do not believe, would merit to have all the World dress up a Cap for him, the most of any Thing he ever did, or was able to do in his Life.

I have nothing to say here to his Legitimacy of Birth, I always thought that to be a Dispute we have no manner of Concern in, I take it to be no Damage to our Establishment, that he be taken for the true Son of King *James*, nor did I ever lay any stress upon the Thing call'd his Legitimacy ; indeed, I think, we are no way Concern'd about it ; and so I have said always, my Reason lies here.

It is the Undoubted Right of the Parliament of Great Britain, to Limit the Succession of the Crown ; This is Establish'd by Repeated Laws many Ages ago, and receiv'd as an Essential Branch of our Constitution, and upon this Foundation, I insist upon it, that this Person being Excluded by Parliamentary Authority, and the Succession Entail'd upon another, all the Claims he can make, are Illegal, and by making any Claim, he obtains no other Title than that of the Pretender, and were his Birth Undisputed, and the farthest from doubt that could be imagin'd, the Thing is the same.

We have a famous Instance of this, being a receiv'd Maxim in our Constitution, in that Memorable

Answer given to King *Hen. VII.* by the great Earl of *Surrey*, who being Prisoner after the Battle of *BOSWORTH*, King *Henry* asked him, how he durst draw his Sword in behalf of that Usurper and Tyrant *Richard III.* ? The Earl boldly answer'd ; " *That the Parliament of England having plac'd the Crown on the Head of Richard, it was his Duty, and he was in Allegiance bound to fight for him ;* adding, that if the Parliament of England should place the Crown upon the Head of *THAT STAKE* pointing to a Stake that happened to be in View, he would fight for *THAT STAKE* ; and that when the Parliament of England should Establish the Crown upon his Head, (*King Henry VII.*) he would, with the same Fidelity, and Vigour fight for him : An Answer so brave and so substantial, that procur'd him not the Pardon only, but the Favour of the Conquerer, to whom he afterwards did signal Service.

This is the Foundation that I go on ; the Parliament of England, (*now of Britain*) has plac'd the Crown on the Head of our Queen, and after her Majesty, long may it be first, shall Decease, the Remainder, or Succession, to the House of *Hanover* : I have no need to Enquire who is Legitimate, or who not ; there's my Debt of Allegiance, all that Claim against it are but Pretenders, and are to be fought against and oppos'd by me, and every honest *Britain*, on pain of Treason and Perjury, let their Right by Birth and Blood be what they will, till the Parliament of *Britain* shall alter this Entail.

But to return to the Pretender, taking on himself the Title of the Duke of Gloucester, or they that are about him, for I will not abuse him so much, as to think he has done it himself ; the Thing, as he is now Circumstanced, appears the weakest Action he could ever do, and shews he is but very indifferently stor'd with good Councillors, as to his own Concerns ; for such a Thing particularly, renders his Pretensions to the Crown of Great Britain more absurd than they were before ; nay, they seem for him, to lay by the Claim to the Crown by this Action, and to own, that he ought not now to be so much as call'd the Pretender ; let us Examine this wise Step a little.

Either

Either he is the Legitimate Son of King *James*, or he is not, he says he is, and *as such*, he pretends to be Rightful Heir to the Crown, and after his Father's Death, calls himself KING of *Great Britain*, &c. If he is not, how can he have any pretence to give himself any Title or Stile of Honour, without Creation by the Sovereign, who is the Fountain of Honour? — If he is Rightful Heir, he is a Sovereign; How then comes he to take upon him the Title of a Subject? Honour ascends, otherwise it is no more Honour; no Man degrades himself, and gives himself meaner Titles than the greatest he enjoy'd before: But perhaps they resolve he shall quit his Pretensions to the Crown, and to the Sovereignty, and own himself a Subject; this cannot be Rational, for then he owns himself Spurious, and then he is nothing at all, no more than *James Stuart Labourer*; unless the late King, while Sovereign, in Possession, or her present Majesty, had Created him — So that this is the greatest Absurdity that ever was committed of the kind — For if his Pretensions are just, he is King, and cannot be dignify'd with any Thing meaner, if his Pretensions are unjust, he is a private Person, and cannot, *but by the Queen*, be Entitled to any Dignity or Title of Honour in these Dominions.

I remember but few Instances of any among us, especially in this Age, who have taken Titles upon them without Authority; but of those that have, they have always been of higher Note than they had before; as the Duke of *Monmouth*, who Claim'd the Crown, and attempted the Recovery of it; causing himself to be Proclaimed King; but for a Man first to call himself King, and then Create himself Duke of *Gloucester*, this is so Ridiculous, that I see no End it can Answer, except it should be taken for an Acknowledgment, that his Pretensions before, to the Title of King, were Usurped, and that he has no more Thoughts of the Crown, than as a Younger Branch of the Family; and yet even this would be as absurd as the other; for either he is the Heir, or he is nothing: If he is the Sovereign, How can he be the Subject? If he is the Subject, How can he pretend to be the Sovereign? As to being Duke of *Gloucester*, that's still more Ridiculous; for if he is the King, as his Friends here call him, Upon what Foundation can he be a Duke? And if he be not King in Title, he is nothing at all, but owns himself Spurious.

But may not a Man call himself what he pleases, say some? *Ay, Ay*, no doubt of it — So the famous Mr. *Fielding* stil'd himself Prince *Fielding*, and Earl of *Doncaster* — The late Colonel *Beveridge* called himself Count *Beverige*, a Count of the Empire, and the like; and just thus the People of *England* may regard the new Title of the Pretender; but for

us to be amus'd with it, to be alarm'd at it, thinks that is very odd — Had he not call'd him King of *England*, &c. before? Had he not assum'd all the Titles of her Majesty's Crown before? *Et* this is more than before, or less; if more, then Duke of *Gloucester* is greater than King of *England*; which I answer, let him leave off pretending to a Crown, let him leave the Elector of *Hanover* to be King, and he shall be call'd Duke of *Gloucester* — as he lives, with all our Hearts; if it be less, why should we be more alarm'd at the lesser Title than we are at the greater? Let his wife Counsel go on with their New Politicks, there is nothing all in it to his Advantage.

The Affront of taking the Stile of the Sovereign was justly Resented by the late King *William*, and her present Majesty; if he had at that Time let Royal Titles alone, and stil'd himself a Duke or Lord only, tho' that would have been objected against, yet it would not have provok'd the whole Nation; because one is Claiming to be a Son, the other a Servant; the one is Claiming to be our Master, the other a Fellow Subject; the one is declaring the Queen an Usurper, and himself her Majesty's Superior; the other is acknowledging the Queen his superiour, and himself a Subject — So that all seems to me to be a Ridiculous piece of Pageantry and so foolish, that, as before, it really gives me Suspicion of the News and that it is but a Sham, I cannot believe any thing so Scandalously Absurd to be of the Pretender's own doing; I never heard of Intellectuals charg'd with any Thing, or that he is an Object fit for Laughter and Ridicule, nor should I Treat him as such: If he is really the Son of King *James*, his Father was the Spring of his Misfortune, and if not, I cannot see what has befallen him, viz. *he brought up like a Prince*, has been a Misfortune for this Reason, I will not suppose any Thing so ridiculous of him, that he has caus'd himself first to call'd King of *England*; and then to be call'd Duke of *Gloucester*; but rather choose to think it a Sham or an Artifice of his Enemies, to cause him to be laugh'd at, and be made Ridiculous among the People; like Handsome *Fielding*, or the German Princesses, one, the Object of every Body's Contempt, and the other, of publick Resentment; after this, a Man may call himself Duke of *Gloucester*, Prince of *Gloucester*, or any thing, it is a Jest hardly worth laughing at.

Our Business is short, viz. To preserve the Succession, and not be frighted at the Ridiculous Stile that *Papish* and *French* Counsellors shall direct others to take, and of this I shall speak at large in Court.